

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 08702 111910Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4302

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8702

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, EIND, ETRD, MX

SUBJ: TOPICS FOR PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: FERROUS SCRAP QUOTAS

REF: MEXICO 6700, MEXICO 6721

1. IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT PROBABLE, THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MAY ASK PRESIDENT FORD FOR AN INCREASE IN THE QUOTA OF SCRAP IRON EXPORTS TO MEXICO. MEXICO CONTINUES TO COMPLAIN IT NEEDS OVER ONE MILLION SHORT TONS OF SCRAP ANNUALLY, WHILE ITS ONLY SIGNIFICANT SOURCE, THE U.S., HAD LIMITED 1974 SCRAP EXPORTS TO MEXICO TO 675,000 SHORT TONS. IN THE SECOND QUARTER, FONMIN RABASA APPEALED PERSONALLY TO SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER FOR ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY ALLOCATION OF 50,000 METRIC TONS AND DID RECEIVE 15,000 ADDITIONAL SHORT TONS. ON AUGUST 7, MEXICO'S STEEL CHAMBER PERSUADED RABASA TO INITIATE ANOTHER APPEAL TO USG, BUT THIS TIME (AS REPORTED REFTELS) RABASA PHONED MEXICAN AMBASSADOR OLLOQUI TO PROCEED THROUGH CHANNELS.

2. SO FAR CHAMBER HAS HEARD NOTHING FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY AND NOW PLANS TO CONTACT RABASA UPON HIS RETURN NEXT WEEK FROM MONTH-LONG TRIP. THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT THE CHAMBER MIGHT THEN PRESSURE RABASA TO SUGGEST THIS TOPIC TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FOR INCLUSION IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD.
JOVA

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